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100-3739

18 May 1960

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence**

**SUBJECT: Sprague Committee Paper - The Impact  
of Achievements in Science and Technology  
Upon the Image Abroad of the United States**

1. This memorandum is for the information of the DCI.
2. I am attaching a staff paper prepared by the Sprague Committee concerning the impact of achievements in science and technology. I understand that the Committee relied very heavily on the Office of Scientific Intelligence of CIA in preparing this report.
3. The paper is somewhat discursive but seems to me to constitute a thoughtful analysis of the problem involved in increasing the understanding in foreign countries of U.S. accomplishments and capabilities in the scientific and technological field. The more interesting portions of this study (apart from the conclusions and recommendations) are contained in chapters 4, 5 and 6.
4. I expect to be out of town for the week-end beginning Friday afternoon, 20 May, but will be back in town Monday morning and will be present at the beginning of the Committee meeting at 10:00 a.m.

John A. Bross  
Senior Planning Officer  
O/DDP

Attachment  
As stated

cc: DDCI wo/att.

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60-3532

12 May 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Sprague Committee Meeting, 10 May 1960

1. This memorandum is for the information of the Director.
2. Attached are rather full minutes of the discussion which took place at the last meeting of the Sprague Committee concerning unofficial radios and the subject of unattributed propaganda. I have sent the staff papers on Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe to Cord Meyer with the suggestion that he give them a final review.
3. Also attached for your consideration is a copy of the draft conclusions and recommendations discussed at the Committee meeting together with a memorandum showing the specific changes agreed upon at the meeting.

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[Redacted]  
John A. Bross  
Senior Planning Officer  
O/DDP

Attachments - 3  
As stated

cc: DDCI w/atts. ✓

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12 May 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Specific Changes Agreed at Sprague Committee Meeting of  
10 May 1960, on Conclusions and Recommendations of Paper  
on Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty**

The following changes in the text of the annexed Conclusions and Recommendations of the Sprague Committee paper on Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty were agreed:

1. Deletion of the words "and give more emphasis to a European point of view" in the first sentence of paragraph 24.
2. No change in the wording of paragraph 25 on page 19 except that it was noted at the meeting that the criticism of RFE contained in this paragraph applies, if at all, to Poland.
3. Paragraph 25.a. amended so that the third line of the second sentence would read either "increase, reduction or modification of the treatment..." or "modification of the treatment..."
4. Paragraph 25.c., second sentence (eighth line), the word "funds" is deleted. It was also agreed that the sense of the last sentence of this paragraph would be altered by the insertion of language generally to the effect that "should such a transfer of facilities take place and the situation should later alter, or jamming of VOA should later be resumed then...."
5. Paragraph 28 is eliminated.

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John A. Bross  
Senior Planning Officer  
O/DDP

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26. The problem of coordination of "unofficial" broadcasts must be attacked both in Washington and at its roots in the field. We recommend that:

- a. Increased use be made of the Radio Broadcasting Policy Committee (State, CIA, USIA) and, as appropriate, sub-committees thereof be established;
- b. Arrangements for consultation of CIA with USIA be more continuous (and comparable to those with the State Department) and deal with tactical items as well as with broadcast strategy;
- c. Radio Free Europe take such steps as may be feasible to assure American supervision, control and monitoring of broadcasts (especially to Poland) comparable to that of Radio Liberty;
- d. Our Missions and Consulates be associated earlier, more systematically and directly with the development of policy guidance, and the preparation of programs; that they report more fully and regularly on the impact of programs in their areas; and that these field views and recommendations be passed promptly to CIA.

27. Much of the difficulty in translating policy into radio broadcasts arises from dependence on refugee or emigre script writers and announcers who have trouble in adjusting their natural aspirations and resentments to the milder, more factual tone which is now desirable. Existing provisions for personnel administration do not afford enough flexibility to cope with the problem. We recommend that the U. S. Government and the interested corporations begin immediately to devise adequate and flexible retirement programs for alien personnel; for replacement, where feasible, of aliens

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IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

23. The "unofficial" broadcasting activities of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty have made a useful record in the past and continue to offer unique advantages to United States propaganda. Those stations should continue to operate with United States government support and financial assistance.
24. The allocation of responsibilities among official and "unofficial" stations is logical, with VOA projecting the image of America, while the unattributed stations are mainly concerned with European and bloc developments and give more emphasis to a European point of view. Their missions should, however, be continually reexamined in the light of political and technical developments.
25. The "unofficial" programs have sometimes been slow or unsuccessful in adjusting their message to changing conditions and prospects in the satellite countries, and to changes in the United States broadcast policy line. There have been differences among officials of the Department of State and CIA concerning the role and efficacy of broadcasting and, from time to time, concerning interpretation of events in Poland and possibly elsewhere. Despite recent understanding upon new radio policy directives and the loyal effort of CIA to follow the guidance of the Secretary of State in the field of foreign relations, improvements can be made in arrangements for control of the broadcasts, particularly of comment upon internal affairs in the satellite countries and upon foreign policy issues of major concern in these areas. We recommend that:

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- a. RL should continue to discuss internal Soviet affairs in about the present proportions of broadcast time. RFE should be quickly responsive to changing conditions which may call for reduction or modification of the treatment of satellite internal affairs, especially in countries like Poland where the U. S. for the time being is trying to achieve some of its objectives by working through or upon a communist government.
- b. At this time all stations should be increasingly concerned for accuracy and credibility and should in general avoid inflammatory statements, personal denigration, or criticism of bloc achievements. In the present circumstances the polemical theme should be reserved for exceptional opportunities and the tone of both official and unofficial broadcasting should stress objectivity and strive for more credibility.
- c. Given the present political climate, the remission of jamming on VOA programs in the Soviet Union and Poland (and the possibility of similar developments in other Soviet Satellites) affords new opportunity to reach some of the peoples of the Soviet Bloc. Accordingly, the United States should step up its unjammed VOA broadcasts to the Soviet bloc and should consider (possibly in the Radio Broadcast Policy Committee) whether it would be desirable or feasible for some of the frequencies, funds, time and facilities of RFE/RF to be allocated to VOA. Should the situation alter, or jamming of VOA be resumed, then the U. S. should quickly expand the activities of RL/RFE.

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